

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Mike Layton

Seconded by: Councillor Josh Colle

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Prince Rogers Nelson, known as Prince, on April 21, 2016.

Two weeks ago, the world lost a unique entertainer, a singular performer for whom the term “musical genius” is entirely appropriate.

Prince Rogers Nelson – loved by music fans everywhere as simply “Prince” – passed away at just 57 years old. His untimely death came in the middle of a North American tour, which had brought Prince to the Sony Centre here in Toronto at the end of March. During that concert, he sang his hits alone, accompanying himself only on the grand piano – an instrument he played brilliantly, as brilliantly as he played drums, bass, and guitar live and on his 39 albums.

Prince was an incredible musician, a complete master of styles ranging from funk to R&B to flat-out rock, and a great songwriter, singer, and live showman to rival James Brown. His unforgettable work won him 7 Grammy Awards, and an Oscar for the movie “Purple Rain.” Prince was the most successful artist on the Billboard charts from 1980 through 2000, and in addition to his own 15 worldwide Number 1 hits, Prince also wrote and produced hit songs for other artists, like the Bangles, Alicia Keys, and Sinead O’Connor.

Prince was from Minneapolis, where he lived for most of his life – but he had a very strong Toronto connection. Besides performing here regularly from the early 1980s onward, in venues like the Air Canada Centre, the Sony Centre, and Massey Hall, Prince lived in North Toronto during the early 2000’s. He could often be spotted at Toronto clubs, record stores, and of course at Toronto Raptors basketball games.

Prince recorded some of his 2004 album “Musicology” in Toronto, and the last full rock band that he put together, 3rd Eye Girl, featured Toronto’s own Donna Grantis on electric guitar.

It’s fitting that Prince, an artist whose music spanned so many styles and influences, stated that he himself loved Toronto because of its diversity and cosmopolitan makeup. Toronto music fans from across the City and across all cultures mourn Prince’s loss and will dearly miss the gift of his always exciting, endlessly innovative music.

Since Prince passed away, we’ve seen a public outpouring of emotion, with tributes to the man and his music at many of our City’s entertainment venues. Here at City Hall last week, the Toronto sign was lit up in purple during a dance party with Prince’s songs played at Nathan Phillips Square.

Today, the City of Toronto would like to extend sympathies to Prince's family, his close friends, and his hometown – and officially recognize Prince's contributions to music and to the cultural life of Toronto.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Prince's family.

May 3, 2016